FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 AUGUST 1986

Lebanon

Clashes in Christian Sector — Beirut radio reported that 9 people were killed and 26 others were wounded in the 10 August clashes in the Christian sector between supporters and opponents of Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Samir Ja'ja'. Fu'ad Abu Nadir, a former Lebanese Forces leader, was injured in an ambush 11 August as fighting continued in East Beirut. The forces ranged against Ja'ja' comprise supporters of former Lebanese Forces chief Elie Hubayqah, units commanded by Lebanese Forces official Marun Mash'alani, and Phalangist Party forces, according to the radio, which added that forces of this new "uprising" have succeeded in capturing the Phalangist Military Council headquarters in Al-Karantinah and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon building. The fighting erupted when Ja'ja's forces raided hideouts used by Hubayqah's men, the radio said, noting that Hubayqah issued a statement in Zahlah accusing Ja'ja' of mounting a campaign of arrests.

However, broadcasts by Radio Free Lebanon gave no indication that the station has been captured by forces hostile to Ja'ja'. The radio acknowledged that fighting started after Lebanese Forces police arrested a number of individuals but stressed that calm was subsequently restored and roadblocks removed. The radio also carried a joint statement by Ja'ja' and Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah calling on the warring parties to withdraw in order to allow Phalangist and Lebanese Forces officials to hold meetings and examine the situation.

Israeli Air Raids — Israeli aircraft attacked "terrorist" targets near Ba'labakk 11 August, hitting a headquarters and base belonging to Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha's Fatah dissident faction, IDF radio announced. Israeli planes had raided Palestinian targets near Sidon the previous day, according to Jerusalem radio, which noted that the buildings attacked belong both to Fatah and to Col Musa's group. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio said the Israelis used helicopters as well as warplanes to bombard the Al-Miyah wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah areas, adding that five people were hospitalized.

Hostages — An anonymous caller told Radio Free Lebanon 10 August that the Islamic Jihad organization will execute an American hostage shortly. Islamic Jihad had earlier issued a statement that implicitly rejected British mediator Terry Waite's appeal for a resumption of talks on settling the hostage issue, AFP noted.

Israel

Draft Agreement on Tabah Arbitration — A joint communique issued in Jerusalem and Cairo 10 August announced that Egyptian and Israeli negotiators have agreed on a draft arbitral compromis which will be submitted to both governments for approval, Jerusalem radio reported. Two issues are still pending: several "technical clarifications" in the appendix to the arbitral compromis and the appointment of three international arbitrators. The agreement followed 4 days of negotiations which the radio described as long and exhausting. Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche subsequently told the radio that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has agreed to hold a summit meeting with the Israeli prime minister after the arbitral compromis is signed by both governments.

East Bloc Relations — The government has decided that the issue of Soviet Jewry will be the first item on its agenda during the talks with Soviet officials in Helsinki, IDF radio noted in a report on the 10 August Cabinet meeting. Earlier, the Israeli Embassy in Bonn announced that Israel and Poland will exchange representations this fall following secret talks in the FRG, according to Jerusalem radio.

West Bank — Three IDF soldiers were injured 10 August by a bomb explosion in Gush 'Ezyon, IDF radio disclosed.

Syria

Senior Israeli security sources cited in an 8 August report by the Tel Aviv paper *Ma'ariv* said there is no indication that the Soviet Union is about to supply Syria with SS-23's and MiG-29's. In London, the *Economist's Foreign Report* asserted that the Soviet Union has postponed delivery of a large shipment of aircraft and missiles to Syria, according to Cairo's *Al-Ahram*. The report said this followed an abortive coup plot by pro-communist officers against President Hafiz al-Asad's regime last June, claiming that the CIA gave Al-Asad information on Soviet support for the conspiracy and that the Syrian leader ordered the execution of 16 officers involved in it. Al-Asad also dismissed 200 government and Ba'th Party officials loyal to the USSR, the report alleged, adding that he informed the United States of these purge operations. Another claim about secret Syrian-U.S. contacts was made by the UAE's *Al-Ittihad*, which cited a report by diplomatic sources in London that Vice President George Bush secretly met with a high-level Syrian official during his visit to Aqaba, WAM noted. Neverthless, Damascus radio continued to broadcast harsh criticisms of Bush's tour in recent days, claiming in a 7 August commentary that the real purpose of Bush's visit to Israel was to discuss the possibility of an Israeli attack on Syria.

Iran-Iraq War

At least 28 Iraqi civilians were killed over the weekend by an Iranian air attack on Diyala Governorate villages and by artillery shelling of Basra, according to military communiques cited by Voice of the Masses radio. Meanwhile, an Iranian Joint Staff communique announced that Iraqi oil installations near 'Aqrah sustained heavy damage in a 9 August air strike, IRNA reported. Iranian aircraft also hit Iraqi industrial targets southeast of Kirkuk 10 August, the agency continued. For its part, Iraq announced an 11 August air strike against oil refineries and a power station in Isfahan, according to a military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio. IRNA announced that an Iraqi Mirage jet was downed in the Isfahan raid, which killed 2 civilians and injured 16 others.

Elsewhere, an Iranian POW official cited by IRNA claimed that Iraq has turned down two Iranian proposals, one for a POW exchange and another calling for reunions in third countries between Iraqi POW's and their families.

Iran-Saudi Arabia

Saudi security forces arrested without explanation 113 Iranian pilgrims upon arrival in Jeddah, according to IRNA, which suggested that posters of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and Islamic literature carried by the pilgrims may have caused the arrest. The arrests were "justifiable," according to a security source cited by Riyadh radio, who added that the Iranians will nevertheless be allowed to complete their pilgrimage.

Iran-USSR

The deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs said there are no major obstacles to an expansion of Iranian-Soviet relations, Tehran radio reported. The Soviet Union is inclined to take practical steps on completing "unfinished projects" in Iran, he continued, adding that the two sides conducted "clear negotiations" about Soviet aid to Iraq and Iranian support for Afghan mujahidin.

DRA-Pakistan-USSR

The Pakistani foreign minister said the ultimate success of the Pakistani-DRA talks in Geneva depends on finding an acceptable timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, Karachi radio reported. A "great difference" remains between the Pakistani and Afghan positions on a withdrawal timetable, he continued, adding that Pakistan believes the task can be accomplished within a few months. Karachi radio's English service, asserting that the talks had resulted in no "satisfactory or positive achievement," cited reports from Moscow that the USSR wants a 4-year timeframe for a troop withdrawal.

Meanwhile, the DRA foreign minister, en route from Geneva to Kabul, conferred with his Soviet counterpart in Moscow, Kabul radio reported. The conferees noted that the Vladivostok speech by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev created a reliable basis for a political solution to the Afghanistan issue, the radio continued.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi arrived in Moscow 11 August at the start of an official visit, TASS reported, noting thatAl-Mahdi was met by his Soviet counterpart Nikolay Ryzhkov. Al-Mahdi had returned to Khartoum the previous day following a 2-day visit to Libya during which he met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other Libyan leaders, according to SUNA, which noted that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and Arab and African issues. For Libya's part, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio said that Al-Mahdi and Al-Qadhdhafi discussed prospects for bilateral cooperation and unity as well as ways in which the Arab nation can face up to the "Zionist-crusader offensive." In another Sudanese-Libyan development, a Khartoum press report cited by KUNA maintained that Libya has airlifted over 1,000 soldiers into Sudan's western Darfur Province, adding that this activity is closely connected with the situation in Chad.

As for the war in southern Sudan, SUNA reported that the military governor of the Bahr al-Ghazal region has appealed to the SPLA command for a cease-fire in order to safeguard food production and supplies in the area.

Cyprus Attack Aftermath

A Cyprus Government spokesman described as "totally unfounded" a Nicosia *Alithia* report alleging that the persons who attacked the British base at Akrotiri 3 August escaped on a Libyan passenger aircraft, Nicosia radio reported. One of the attackers left Cyprus 4 August and is now in Yugoslavia or "Germany," according to the Nicosia newspaper *I Simerini*, which added that another suspect is being hidden in Cyprus by Arabs or Cypriots. Meanwhile, the Libyan envoy to Cyprus protested to the Foreign Ministry about what he called the government's attempts to use the *Alithia* report to link Libya with the Akrotiri attack, the Nicosia paper *Ta Nea* reported.

Tunisia

The son of former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali was charged with mismanagement of a government dairy firm, according to AFP, which cited observers' statements that the charges mark a renewal of the campaign to discredit the former prime minister.

PLO

A PLO Executive Committee statement issued after talks held 8-10 August in Baghdad expressed "deep regret" over the decision by unnamed Arab countries to suspend their payments mandated by Arab summit resolutions, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. The statement added that resumption of the payments constitutes a pan-Arab duty toward the struggle against Zionism.

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Dost, Shevardnadze Discuss Soviet Troop Withdrawal
LD102006 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] Comrade Shah Muhammad Dost, member of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA minister of foreign affairs, having returned from Geneva at the end of the second stage of the seventh round of DRA-Pakistan talks concerning a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, yesterday met in Moscow with Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of foreign affairs.

During their friendly conversation the two foreign ministers exchanged views on this issue, stressing that this situation should be resolved most rapidly in the interests of ensuring peace on the vast Asian Continent and improving the overall international situation.

It was pointed out that the decision relating to the return of some Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan, which was announced by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in his speech in Vladivostok, has created a reliable basis for this.

Both sides asserted that the address to the people of Afghanistan on 29 July 1986 by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, has received broad and extensive support inside the country as well as abroad.

Najibullah on Geneva Talks, Domestic Issues
LD082154 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Aug 86

[Interview with PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Najibullah by Philip Bonosky, identified as a U.S. writer and journalist, at the PDPA Central Committee Headquarters in Kabul; date not given — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [(Bonosky)] Is the burden of war carried by Soviet or by Afghan forces?
[Najibullah] The undeclared war, which imperialism and reaction have launched against our country, has inflicted loss of life and financial damage upon our country's toilers and economy. In other words, the sacred mission of the defense of the revolution and homeland is the responsibility of our heroic combatant Armed Forces -- including the people of Afghanistan -- and, first of all, the Army and Sarandoy, state security, tribal battalions, and self-defense groups, who are the guardians and defenders of the revolution. They have made epics in crushing the counter-revolutionaries. With regard to the role of the Soviet Union's limited military contingents temporarily stationed in the DRA to foil the foreign aggression against our country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, they are reserve forces assisting our country's combatant Armed Forces.

[(Bonosky)] To what extend will Karmal's resignation affect the talks between the two sides on the solution of major differences?
[Najibullah] The seven rounds of talks with Pakistan on settling the situation around Afghanistan which have been held in Geneva through the UN secretary general's special envoy have achieved specific results. But differences still exist, the solution of which primarily depends upon the other side's goodwill.

The DRA has presented specific and constructive proposals in relation to a settlement of the situation around Afghanistan according to its principled and peace-loving policy and in order to secure peace in our region; and the DRA has shown its principled and neccessary flexibility at the Geneva talks according to the policy of goodneighborliness and good understanding. We act upon our foreign policy bases which have been formulated at the PDPA Central Committee plenums and have been confirmed by the Revolutionary Council, by historical and national Loya Jergas of Afghanistan, and by the High Tribal Jerga; and the DRA will act the same in the future. The change in the PDPA Central Committee general secretary has no connection with the so-called solution of the Afghanistan issue.

[(Bonosky)] Will the predominant social system in Afghanistan be changed or adjusted in order to secure peace?
[Najibullah] To choose a social, economic, and political system in our free and independent country, Afghanistan, is the Afghan peoples' duty and historical mission. They have chosen their way forever following the victory of the April Revolution. In other words, to choose a social system and to follow the direction of the national and democratic revolution is up to the Afghan people themselves. Under no conditions can anyone impose any changes or adjustments on the social system or upon our revolutionary people. Naturally, we are prepared for a national reconciliation in order to secure a speedy national peace for our people and revolution's interests; we will not spare any effort in this. In order to achieve this objective the work to establish a national commission for national reconciliation has been taken into consideration. It must be mentioned that the major and basic condition to secure peace in our country is the cessation of foreign interference and aggression, international guarantees for its nonrecurrence, and the complete crushing of counterrevolutionary bands; not changes or adjustments to our country's political system.

[(Bonosky)] Despite the war, is there any social development which needs mentioning in such spheres as agriculture, industry, women's issues, the overcoming of illiteracy, or other issues?
[Najibullah] Despite imperialism and reaction's interference and aggression within the framework of the undeclared war against our country's people and revolution -- the main objective of which is to create obstacles on the path toward the realization of economic, social and political changes -- the revolutionary changes are being carried out successfully. The democratic land and water reform is a pivotal role in the process of social changes in our country, and by its stage-by-stage realization, important changes [words indistinct] in our social relationship.

So far 335,000 peasant families have received land free of charge. Respectable and prosperous village life replaces poverty and the dependence of peasants on landlords. The production of light and heavy industries has improved noticeably in state, mixed, and private sectors compared with the years before the revolution. It is necessary to refer to figures. The increase in the volume of produced national income has been 11 percent during last 5 years which is more than the level of 1357 [began 21 March 1979]

The important factors of the economic development during the years 1360-1364 were the state and mixed sectors of the national economy. The volume of production in the mentioned sectors showed a growth of 47 percent in 1364 compared with 1359. During 1364 the share of state and mixed sectors of the national economy increased by 20 percent in the volume of gross national output, with 48 percent in industry, 80 percent in construction, and 22 percent in trade. The production of industrial output increased by 25 percent in 1364 compared with 1359, including a growth of 41 percent in state and mixed sectors. These figures show the continuous and assuring growth of our national economy. [passage omitted on women, literacy, and elections]

[(Bonosky)] Do you see the future with optimism or pessimism? If you are optimistic about future, what do you base this on?
[Najibullah] We, as revolutionary mankind, have always had a realistic approach to circumstances and the phenomenon of life. We are always optimistic about the future development of social events. The humane and progressive nature of our revolutionary objectives and our people's complete readiness to participate actively in the defense of the homeland and revolution are the foundation of our optimisim. The expansion of the social bases of revolutionary sovereignty and the extension of revolutionary results on the one hand, and the isolation and decline of the counterrevolutionaries and their decisive crushing by our country's Armed Forces on the other hand constitute our optimistic view for the future.

[(Bonosky)] Today, what message do you have for the peace forces in the United States?
[Najibullah] Ensuring peace is one of the most noble demands of mankind and has been transformed to an important and urgent need in the present world situation and circumstances. The danger that threatens to destroy our planet as a result of the policy of the imperialist circles desirous of war headed by the Washington administration has never been as serious as today.

The world peace movement today has been extended and expanded daily as a natural and logical reaction to the warlike policy of imperialism. [passage omitted on USSR peace proposals] We assure the peace-loving forces and strong peace movement in the United States that they are not alone in their noble combat. The rising revolutionary people of Afghanistan, along with other peace-loving progressive forces of the world, decisively defend and support the noble and brave combat of the U.S. peace forces.

We believe that the noble peace movement in the United States joined with the world peace movement and the progressive forces of our planet will finally force the warmongering forces of imperialism to retreat and will impose on them the voice of conscience and the wisdom of mankind based on ensuring world peace.

Najibullah, Officials Discuss Party Work

LD091934 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Aug 86

[Text] A directive session of the secretaries of the party primary organizations of the ministries, the state committees, and social organizations was held this afternoon at Delkosha Palace on restructuring party and political work, improving activities, and enhancing the effectiveness and usefulness of party primary organizations in light of the decisions of the 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, with the participation of the officials of the Central Committee departments, ministers and heads of the state committees and social organizations.

Comrade Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, opened the session.

Comrade Najmuddin Kawiani, secretary of the Central Committee and head of the Organisation Department of the PDPA Central Committee, presented specific guidelines concerning the important forms of activities of party primary organizations of ministries and central bodies.

Comrades Besmallah, secretary of the party primary organization of the Ministry of Education and Training; Burhan Ghiasi, minister of higher and vocational education; Abdul Wahab (?Talyee) secretary of the party primary organization of the Ministry of Transport; and Muhammad Kabir, minister of finance, spoke about their work.

Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, assessed the results of the work of the session and specified the duties of the ministries, state committees, and social organizations in implementing the tasks of the April Revolution, the decisions of the 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, and the realization of the social-economic plans.

Comrades Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the Politburo and minister of communications; Mir Sahib Karwal, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of Kabul City Party Committee; Niaz Muhammad Mohmand and Haydar Masud, secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee, took part in the work of the session.

Security Forces Seize Weapons in Wardak Province

LD102229 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] A *Bakhtar* correspondent reported that as a result of a successfull combat operation in the Wardak Province area, a number of elements treacherous to the homeland and revolution, who disrupted the peaceful life of the toiling Wardak inhabitants, were crushed.

The country's security forces seized about 3 recoilless rifles, 10 rocket-launcher shells, 4 antitank mines, 4 Chinese DShK's, 1 heavy U.S. machine gun, thirty-seven 82-mm mortar shells, 21 Chinese Kalashnikovs, seven .303 rifles, 1 rocket launcher with 25 rounds, 4 light Chinese machine guns, 3 (Burnaw) weapons, 105 boxes of DShK ammunition, 1 mortar shell, and a large quantity of assorted weapons.

BAKHTAR Political Observer on Pakistani Intervention
LD100716 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 9, *Bakhtar*: A political observer of *Bakhtar* writes: The available evidences and documents testify to the fact that the Pakistani militias particularly in the border areas are directly participating along with the Afghan counter-revolutionary elements in subversive activities against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

This action of the Pakistani militarists is not only contrary to the norms of international law and good neighborliness but is an explicit aggression against the DRA.

Such hostile activities of Islamabad regime were intensified since the time the historical Loya Jirgah, (grand national assembly) and the High Jirgah of Border Tribes took firm decision in shielding the borders and the state and party of the DRA also took practical steps for its implementation.

While the process of political solution of the situation around Afghanistan is getting ahead with flexibility and goodwill on the part of the DRA, the Islamabad regime has resorted to armed provocations and baseless accusations in the border areas.

The results of the military operation of the Armed Forces in Khowst Grand District in Zhawar region explicitly showed that the Islamabad Administration apart from exporting its agents for subversive actions against the DRA, it also sends its border militias alongside the Afghan counter-revolution for armed encounter against the DRA.

Zaibak, a commander of border militia, Nazian District of Nangarhar Province, in a press conference on Pakistan's intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan, stated that when the enemies' route in Sarowbi region was closed against the counter-revolution, a number of Pakistani militias together with the counter-revolutionaries launched armed attacks against the border posts in Sarowbi.

When they were defeated and their documents had fallen at the hands of the security forces of the DRA it became clear that the Pakistani militias and even American and Chinese advisors had participated in the border attack.

Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC, in his interview with Philip Bonosky, an American journalist and writer, had made clear the principled and flexible stand of the DRA for the creation of understanding and good neighbourliness and for reaching a just political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. He stressed that above all the solution of the problems depend upon the goodwill of the other side.

As far as the development of the situation and the position taken by Washington and Islamabad show, they do not want honestly to help the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

China's Claim Over Sumdorong Chu Valley Rejected

BK101025 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr A.P. Venkateswaran, has said India has rejected China's claim that the area in Sumdorong Chu Valley in Arunachal Pradesh is well within Chinese territory. He was commenting on the latest statement reportedly made by a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing that the area in the valley was well within the the Chinese territory. Speaking to newsmen during a brief halt at Calcutta airport on his way to Dhaka to attend the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting, Mr Venkateswaran said this area in the valley where the Chinese had intruded is very much on the Indian side of control and within Indian territory.

Mr Venkateswaran also said India would certainly cooperate with the Sri Lankan Government as far as the terrorists are concerned. He said the ethnic crisis is the island's own problem. India only hopes that the next round of talks between the Sri Lankan Government and ethnic minority groups slated for 16th August are successful.

Regarding SARC, he said it is a forum for multilateral cooperation and cannot be involved in individual problem of countries. Mr Venkateswaran said India is confident that the SARC would help promote better understanding and cooperation among the neighboring countries.

About India-Pakistan relations, Mr Venkateswaran said India favored improved relations but regretted that it is not taking place as desired. Describing the proposed Indo-Pakistani rail link as a step forward in the improvement of relations, Mr Venkateswaran said the target date for the state of movement of trains through the link has been fixed for October. No firm date has been fixed yet. Asked whether Pakistan's involvement in Punjab affairs stood in the way of improvement of relations, Mr Venkateswaran said that India has protested to Pakistan that it is giving support and sustenance to the extremists in Punjab and across the border but Pakistan has denied it.

Delhi: Former Army Chief Assassinated in Pune

BK101307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Excerpts] The former chief of the Army staff, General A.S. Vaidya, was shot dead by four unidentified gunmen in the Queen's Garden area of Pune around noon today. General Vaidya, accompanied by his wife, was traveling in his car when the scooter-borne assailants opened fire. Mrs Vaidya was injured in the firing. Both of them were rushed to the Southern Command Hospital. A Defense Ministry spokesman later announced General Vaidya dead. Mrs Vaidya has been operated upon and is reported to be out of danger. The police have launched an intensive operation to apprehend the culprits. [passage omitted on General Vaidya's achievements during his tenure of office] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has asked the chief minister of Maharastra, Mr S.B. Chavan, to take necessary measure to apprehend the culprits.

Sikh Separatist Claims Resposibility

BK110439 Hong Kong AFP in English 0423 GMT 11 AUG 86

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 11 (AFP) An anonymous Sikh separatist has claimed the assassination of the general who led the army's assault on the Sikh Golden Temple in 1984, *United News of India* (UNI) reported Monday. (The general did not lead the actual assault.)

The man telephoned the UNI bureau in Pune -- where General Arun Sridhar Vaidya was slain Sunday -- claiming the killing and said he was from "Khalistan", the nation militant Sikhs are fighting to build in Punjab. The man, who spoke in Hindi, made the call late Sunday, the agency said.

Indian newspapers meanwhile hit out at alleged lapses in security which led to the shooting of the retired general and his wife in the western Indian town. Gen. Vaidya was shot through the head and neck while his wife was wounded in the thigh. [passage omitted]

Parliament Condemns Killing

BK110928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 86

[Text] Both houses of Parliament adjourned today without transacting any business as a mark of respect to the former chief of the Army staff, General A.S. Vaidya, who was assassinated in Pune yesterday. Members stood in silence for a short while after the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, and the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Mr Venkataraman, paid rich tributes to General Vaidya and strongly condemned the dastardly act.

Expressing shock and indignation at the assassination of General Vaidya, Mr Jakhar said there are no adequate words to describe the incident. He was a dedicated and accomplished soldier who performed his prime duty to the country. Describing him as a valiant son of India, Mr Jakhar said General Vaidya received several decorations including the Mahabir Chakra.

The need of the hour is unity, communal harmony and peace. We must stand united and solidly in the face of the threat. The house must reaffirm its resolve to thwart efforts of terrorists and disruptionists threatening the unity, integrity, and dignity of the nation. The nation should guard against playing into the hands of such forces, who he described as agents of foreign powers. Such acts cannot deter the country's march toward a better and prosperous future, Mr Jakhar added.

In the Rajya Sabha, the chairman, Mr Venkatarman said it is a matter of shame and sorrow to the entire nation that the cult of terrorism in its senseless (?stroll) should claim an upright soldier of distinction now living in quiet retirement. He said General Vaidya was an exemplary soldier for whom duty and discipline were axiomatic. It was under his stewardship that the Indian Army successfully repulsed Pakistani intrusions in the Siachen Glacier of the eastern Karakoram in Jammu and Kashmir. If the Pune outrage strengthened the nation's resolve to meet the cult of violence with determination, then his martyrdom will not have gone in vain.

Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab, New Delhi

'Notorious Terrorist' Arrested

BK091301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Aug 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that the law and order situation in the state has started showing definite signs of improvement. This is evident in the number of terrorists arrested during the last few days. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this afternoon, the chief minister complimented the police for arresting a notorious terrorist, Manbir Singh Chaheru, in Jullundhur. He said Chaheru was arrested at the residence of a retired Army officer, Baldev Singh Gurman, who has also been arrested. Mr Barnala said Chaheru was responsible for major shooting incidents in Jullundhur and Kapurthala Districts which had claimed 22 lives.

The director general of the state police, Mr Rebeiro, said that preliminary investigation of the terrorist has led to the recovery of a large quantity of arms and ammunition. These included a light machine gun, rifles, and about 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

16 'Hardcore Terrorists' Arrested

BK100943 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] In Punjab, the Amritsar police have arrested 16 terrorists during raids at different places since last evening. The director general of police, Mr Rebeiro, told our Chandigarh correspondent this morning that the most notorious among them have been identified as Gurnam Singh Johra, Joginder Singh, Daljit Singh, and Resham Singh. He said all the arrested were involved in terrorist activities including many shooting incidents. Gurnam Singh, the much dreaded one, was responsible for the incident near Mamdot in which six people were gunned down last month.

The police have also arrested a group of five terrorists led by Surjit Singh and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The group was responsible for a number of acts of terrorism including murder and dacoity. Mr Rebeiro said all the five had received training in Pakistan.

Terrorists Arrested in Amritsar

BK101632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists were nabbed yesterday by the police in Amritsar District. The terrorists were involved in several cases of murder and robbery. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them. Earlier, the Amritsar police also arrested Visha Singh who had escaped from the Mand area when the police and paramilitary forces carried out an operation to nab terrorists.

Police have busted another terrorist hideout when they raided the residence of a retired Army official in Ludhiana last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition with foreign markings were recovered from the house which belongs to Mr H.S. Khalon. He is related to another retired Army officer, Major Baldev Singh Ghuman, who was arrested in Jullundur yesterday on charges of sheltering terrorists. The director general of Punjab police, Mr J.S. Rebeiro, told newsmen in Jullundur today that Mr Kahlon had left the house with his family before the police raid.

Sukhbir Singh Khalsa, a known extremist and a leader of the All India Sikh Students Federation, was arrested last night when he was about to sneak into a gurdwara [Sikh temple] in New Delhi. Sukhbir Singh is facing trial in about ten cases and offenses, like bomb blast cases in various parts of the capital.

Dissident Akali Leaders in Custody

BK100901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] Agency reports say that the dissident Akali leaders, Mr Prakash Singh Badel and Mr G.S. Tohra, have been remanded to judicial custody for 14 days. They were arrested in Delhi last evening for contravening the order served on them to leave the city as their presence was considered prejudicial to peace and tranquillity in the capital.

Border Guards Kill Seven 'Intruders' From Pakistan

BK101255 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 10 (AFP) — Indian border guards shot dead seven men that tried to enter India from neighboring Pakistan over the weekend, a Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman said on Sunday.

The spokesman said the BSF, a paramilitary force responsible for security on India's borders, said all seven were believed to be Pakistanis.

Two of the intruders were killed in the Amritsar District of the State of Punjab, which borders Pakistan, when a BSF patrol fired at a group of men attempting to enter India on Friday, the spokesman said. Three were shot dead on Sunday and two on Saturday in the desert state of Rajasthan, he said.

"At least one of the seven was definitely a smuggler," the spokesman said, adding that [words indistinct] had been were "miscreants" from Pakistan. [sentence as received]

Indian press reports recently stated that 16 people shot dead by the BSF and at first said to be Pakistanis were in fact Bangladeshis looking for work. The Indian authorities did not deny the reports.

Kabul Blamed for Deadlock in Geneva Talks

BK090930 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 8 Aug 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to a report received from Geneva, the UN under secretary general for special political affairs and mediator on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, was continuing his last-minute efforts to overcome the obstacle dividing the two negotiating teams of Afghanistan and Pakistan over the Afghanistan issue. The report further said that the proximity talks on the future of Afghanistan between the two countries continued yesterday with little indication of any success either on the central issue of the Soviet withdrawal or the future course of negotiations. Kabul was continuing reticence on the main issue concerning the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. It is obvious to understand that the seventh round of proximity talks since the last reports came in have not made any satisfactory or positive achievement due to the reticence of the Kabul regime which is perhaps determined to prolong the 7½ year-old crisis which has claimed immense loss of lives in Afghanistan.

It was recently that the Russian leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, in a statement had announced to withdraw six Russian regiments from Afghanistan. Obviously, Pakistan, being keenly interested in the solution of the crisis, welcomed the Russian statement with some reservations. Pakistan believed that at least it was a very small offer, but if sincerely meant, it might prove conducive toward the solution of the Afghan problem. On the contrary, majority of the foreign countries, though partly welcomed the offer but were clear in their minds that the Russians will not honor their pledge and that they wanted to misguide the world opinion. The events have proved that Russians really do not have any respect for the world opinion and wanted to support the puppet regime of Karmal in Afghanistan to show their (?insincerity).

As the proximity talks progressed during the course of several years, new hopes were increasing that some sort of amicable solution will be found through political negotiation. But unfortunately, nothing happened except that the ferocity of war in Afghanistan has increased manifold. The Karmal regime with the assistance of the Russians was making all possible efforts to destroy the strongholds of the mujahidin. But the reports suggest that the mujahidin have thoroughly frustrated all their designs.

It is again an irony of fate that having agreed on a number of fundamental issues, the two sides should have bogged down on the question of withdrawal of the forces. It is fully known that the solution of the Afghanistan issue entirely depends on how soon the Russians withdraw their Armed Forces from that country and allow the people to decide their fate. Reports have come from Moscow that the Russians wanted a timeframe for the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan in a period of 4 years. Pakistan's foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, had rejected the Russian contention and had instead suggested that the timeframe should not be more than a few months. The idea is that if Russians were allowed to stay on in Afghanistan for 4 years, obviously, it will further worsen the situation, and the war of liberation which has already attained severity might become more serious because the people of Afghanistan would not like the Russians to stay on indefinitely in their motherland and to do [words indistinct]

It was in this context that a lot of hopes were pinned on the seventh round of proximity talks in Geneva. Pakistan had made its point very clear. Diego Cordovez, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, took greater pains and, with a view to stopping the talks from being bogged down completely, he came out with a list of proposals regarding the timeframe and the two sides held discussions on it.

Pakistan reiterated its demand that foreign forces must withdraw from Afghanistan and millions of Afghan refugees who have taken shelter in the neighboring countries must be allowed to return to their homeland with honor and dignity so that they decide their own fate. Pakistan still believes that the solution of the Afghan problem entirely depended on the peaceful negotiations as force will not produce any results.

The Russians by now must have realized that no amount of force or coercion will deter the heroic people of Afghanistan from the cherished path — the path of independence, honor and dignity. They have suffered a lot in the past and fought against the much stronger force equipped with world's latest weapons, but (?lethal) weapons could not cow down the freedom fighters. It is time Karmal-Russian forces realize the gravity of the situation and save the humanity from distress.

President Leaves For Saudia Arabia for Pilgrimage

BK081553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Aug 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Karachi this evening for Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj.

Senate Chairman Named Acting President

BK090358 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Aug 86

[Text] It has been officially announced in Islamabad that Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan will perform the duties of the president during the latter's foreign trip.

Afghan Mujahidin Destroy 4 Tanks in Attack on Convoy

BK090356 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Aug 86

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin in Afghanistan last Wednesday [6 August] attacked a Soviet-Kabul troop convoy near Jalalabad-Kabul highway and inflicted heavy damages on them. The mujahidin destroyed four tanks in the attack, killing their crews on the spot.

Another report said that the mujahidin captured 14 soldiers after attacking a Soviet-Kabul military post in Herat. They also seized a large quantity of arms ammunition.

SRI LANKA

President To Consider Amnesty for Tamil Militants

BK110350 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Aug 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, says he hopes to find a solution to the ethnic issue with the full support of the Indian Government.

Addressing the Executive Committee of the ruling United National Party in Colombo, Mr Jayewardene called upon India to sign a pact with his government which would cover implementation of any peace accord on the ethnic crisis in the island. He also said his government will continue its deliberations with the Tamil United Liberation Front and, if necessary, with the Tamil militants. He said if the militants are prepared to observe peace, it would be considered to give them amnesty.

Meanwhile, 3 people were reported killed and 11 injured in the northern town of Jaffna in army shelling. The shelling followed clashes between security forces and Tamil militants.

In another incident, two people were killed in clashes between Tamil and Muslim communities.

TULF Leader Asks For India's Help To Win 'Freedom'

BK101654 Hong Kong AFP in English 1647 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 10 (AFP) — A top Tamil leader urged the Indian Government Sunday to help Tamils win "freedom" from Sri Lanka if moves for a political settlement of the island's ethnic conflict failed, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said.

The appeal was voiced by Appapillai Amirthalingam, the secretary-general of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), at a conference on Sri Lanka held in the southern Indian city of Madras, PTI said. New Delhi should help the Tamils if talks between TULF and the Sri Lankan Government failed, the news agency quoted Mr Amirthalingam as saying.

The talks resume in Colombo on August 16.

He reaffirmed the TULF demand for a Tamil homeland comprising the island's Northern and Eastern Provinces, saying there was no question of a compromise, PTI said.

The TULF stand on a single Tamil linguistic unit consisting of the two provinces was a "cardinal factor" for a negotiated settlement, Mr Amirthalingam added.

TULF held 10 days of talks with the Sri Lankan Government in July on Colombo's latest peace proposals. Some progress was reported to have been made.

he Tamil party was "honestly and sincerely" pursuing the peace efforts but would not compromsie on matters that are of "fundamental importance for the survival and security of the Tamil people," Mr Amirthalingam said.

Sunday's conference in Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu, urged the Sri Lankan Government to concede the Tamil demand and asked New Delhi to pursuade Colombo to "see reason."

6 Security Personnel Killed, 5 Injured in Batticaloa

BK111337 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 11 Aug 86

[Text] Six security forces personnel were killed, five seriously injured when terrorists detonated an explosive device near Vakarai in the Batticaloa District today and [words indistinct]. The security forces were on a routine patrol.

Larijani Briefs Khamene'i on USSR Interest in Ties

LD091651 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 9 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani briefed President 'Ali Khamene'i on the outcome of his recently-concluded visit to Moscow, here Saturday. The deputy foreign minister also told the president that the Soviet Union is interested in expanding relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During his August 3-7 visit to Moscow, Larijani handed over a message from President Khamene'i to the President of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Andrey Gromyko.

Larijani also discussed Tehran-Moscow cooperation in a four-hour meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

'No Major Impediments'

LD101718 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani termed his recently-concluded visit to Moscow as "positive and constructive". He said, "fortunately, there are no major impediments in Irano-Soviet relations." "Tehran-Moscow relations look to the future and are not based on circumstantial expedients", Larijani added in a press conference held here.

The deputy foreign minister said that a joint Irano-Soviet economic committee will shortly start work on expanding cooperation between the two countries in the commercial, transportation, industrial, scientific and technical fields. The committee will also play a key role in promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil, energy, and oil exploration in the Caspian Sea, he said.

On Iran's gas sales to the Soviet Union, Larijani said that teams of experts from the two countries were studying the plan. He noted that Iran is interested in exporting gas to that country and to Europe through Soviet pipelines.

Larijani furthermore referred to the upcoming visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Moscow noting, "Soviet officials are in agreement with continuing direct talks with Iran."

On the issue of Afghanistan, he said that Iran welcomes the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and that it believes "it is a mistake for the Soviet forces to remain in that country."

The deputy minister referred to propaganda of international mass media that Iran's victory over Iraq would serve to make the region unstable as "propaganda artifice" and said "stability will return to the region once the Ba'thist Iraqi regime is eliminated."

On efforts of big powers to end the Iraqi-imposed war, he said the Islamic Republic of Iran will not agree to any plan which justifies aggression and secures the influence of foreign governments in the region. "A political solution to the Iraqi-imposed war does not imply peace with Saddam Husayn of Iraq", Larijani said, "a political solution should not be dictated by Saddam." He added "we will not allow others to pick the political fruits of the war while our combatants are shedding their blood at the war fronts."

'Unfinished' Projects, DRA Discussed

LD101740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] Larijani, deputy minister in charge of economic and international affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the end of his trip to the USSR which took place at the formal invitation extended by that country's government, met with domestic and foreign correspondents. He commented on the importance of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, explaining the viewpoints of both countries on important issues in the region, grounds for economic, political cooperation, and future relations between the two countries.

During this trip, careful and extensive negotiations were held on various regional issues important to both countries, Larijani said. The Islamic Republic of Iran's stances were made clear. We succeeded in finding grounds for bringing our points of view closer together in order to help solve the issues of the region. The two sides were made aware of the existing grounds for cooperation between them and on an international level. In considering the problems and issues in our mutual relations with the USSR officials, we came to the conclusion that there are no major problems on the way of expanding relations. The joint commission that will be formed very soon will create the proper grounds for expanding mutual relations.

Regarding the possibility of expanding relations within the joint commission of the two countries, Larijani said that trade, transport, transit roads, industrial and technical cooperation in the fields of energy and oil including gas and oil explorations, exploration in the Caspian Sea, and also scientific and technical cooperation are among the points provided for in the commission.

On the unfinished projects undertaken by the USSR in Iran, the deputy minister of international and economic affairs said that in our negotiations, the Soviet side expressed the inclination to finish these projects. Experts from both countries are to review the situation and very soon practical steps will be taken in this respect. He added that the Soviet officials have expressed willingness to continue the talks. The joint commission from both countries has officially invited Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati to visit the USSR. This trip will take place in the current Christian year. We will continue to exchange views.

In answer to a question put to him by a foreign correspondent about the USSR proposing to stop its assistance to Iraq if Iran stops its support for Afghan mujahidin, Larijani said that naturally, we talked extensively about the regional issues with the USSR officials; however, Iraq's aggression against Iran is separate from the Afghan isse. We had clear talks on these two points and made our views known to them. They also expressed their views. We welcome the withdrawal of USSR forces from Afghanistan. We believe that the presence of these troops in Afghanistan is a mistake. The Soviet presence in Afghanistan

will be damaging to the interests of the region since it will increase American influence here, Larijani added.

Khomeyni Sends Message to Hajj Pilgrims

LD082019 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 8 Aug 86

["Hajj Pilgrims Should Decry the Injustice of Tyrants, Oppressors in Mecca, Medina" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, August 8, IRNA — On Thursday the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, sent a message to Muslim pilgrims paying their pilgrimage to Mecca. In his message the Imam advised the Iranian pilgrims to show themselves as a model for other world Muslims. The Imam also addressed himself to Arab leaders of the region calling on them to discontinue their support for the Baghdad regime and let the Iraq-Iran war come to its end. The following is a translation from parts of the Imam's message:

1. I would like to advise the (Iranian) pilgrims to Mecca to act according to the guidance of the distinguished members of the ulema who accompany them in their pilgrimage and advise them also against doing anything without their approval, for it is likely that out of negligence your act will have a detrimental effect without you being able to make good on it or that you will indulge in the "haram" and create trouble for yourselves and for your relatives upon your return home. This is a religious duty which you cannot afford to overlook. I also request our distinguished leaders of pilgrims to make sure that the pilgriming people under their guidance will understand the details of the rites and that their performance during the rites is guided.

2. I would also remind our respectable pilgrims to read the holy Koran, this divine book, as a practice during their visit to Mecca and Medina. Whatever avails Muslims and whatever has availed them throughout the history of Islam is the result of the benefits of this holy book. I take this opportuntiy also to request all members of the ulema and children of the holy Koran as well as our learned men not to overlook regular pondering over the holy scripture which was revealed to the heart of the first Muslim and thence to the hearts of the masses. This holy scripture which is a manifestation in writing of all divine signs and whose depth is unfathomable by us should not fall into oblivion. And although its various dimensions as well as many of its complex aspects are beyond the intellectual capacity of an ordinary human being, but it is nonetheless advisable that every person sip from this bottomless fountain of occult knowledge and from this vast sea of the discovery of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and also help others to take their share from it. And those learned in philosophy as well as the gnostic cannot do better than delve into this holy book and into its secrets in a bid to discover the theorems of divine philosophy and provide the result of their studies to interested people, and let them benefit from their efforts and help elevate their souls. And finally let each and every group of members of the ulema and dignified scholars delve into a separate aspect of this holy scripture and write their findings and thereby materialize the hopes of the lovers of the holy Koran in the various political, social, economic, military, cultural and war and peace aspects of the holy book, so that its being a source book for everything is recognized and appreciated by all a source book of philosophy and gnosticism and literature so that the less knowledgeable people will not claim that politics is not the domain of Islam, or that the administration of the affairs of the state is the business of the sultans and the presidents and of those involved in worldly affairs. And those misinterpreters have done the same to the holy Koran as the unenlightened churches and treacherous politicians have done to Christianity.

It is now time for the theological schools and research universities to rise and save the holy Koran from the evil of ignorant worshippers and from ill-reputed scholars who attack the Koran intentionally. And I confess, not out of mere modesty but because of my own conscious knowledge, that I sorrow for having lost a lifetime in my wanderings in lost roads and in the path of ignorance, and call on you young blood of Islam to awaken the theological schools to the full dimensions of the holy Koran. Teach the holy Koran as a course in each and every syllabus, so that you at your old age will not feel sorry as I do for what you did not do in your young days.

3. We must realize that the idea behind the revelation of the holy Koran is for it to address itself to critical issues of material as well as spiritual life and to make people understand that the teachings of the holy book are not solely peculiar to any specific period of the history or to any particular geographic location, or that Abraham, and Moses and Prophet Muhammad were in fact addressing themselves to a particular juncture of man's history, but that their orders are universal and for all periods of human life, since nothing has remained now of the unbelievers in Hejaz, and the rising of the masses is not peculiar to any specific period. Each year this common assembly of human beings is an important act of worshipping, and shall for ever remain thus and this (Hajj) outcry against the oppressors should continue for ever, and its rewards have already been bestowed on us in our war with the yezids (arch-tyrants) of our time. And it is necessary that the pilgrims to Mecca utter a loudest outcry of their hatred of tyrants and oppressors and shake the hands of their brethern and watch against sacrificing the interests of Muslims for factionalism and nationalism. It is necessary that they encourage their Muslim brothers to abandon the spirit of bigotry and prejudice which serve only the interests of world devouring powers and their dependents. If, God forbid, they should follow the agents of the world devouring powers the most influence of whom are mercenary clerics, they shall have committed a great sin and shall deserve the wrath of the almighty upon them, and they shall remain enshackled by the superpowers, from which we seek shelter in God.

4. I request the respectable pilgrims of Iran to remember the status of the country from which they go and to remember the purpose. They are from a country whose masses have risen to implement the divine laws and cancel the profane laws of the past social and political system in their country. They are from a country whose young and old and whose men and women rose up for a divine cause and sacrificed everything they had. Many of our youth who have divine values beyond our appreciation have been martyred and lost and are unheard of.

And they are travelling to a country which is the divine abode and the Qibla of the aspirations of lofty prophets and saints. They are going to Allah with a commitment to be inspired solely by

the divinity in whatever the commit and omit. They are going to the Medina of Prophet Muhammad so that they may become true Muhammadans and learn how to live, and how to struggle and how to get to their 'beloved' being. They are pilgriming to the tomb of the prophet of God and to the tombs of the sublime saints who never even for one second in their lives were lured to the material world and to its exotic luxuries, who thought not of anything save Allah and his decrees and who did not walk but on a road as best he wished.

Then bear you in mind from whence you come and where to you are heading for. Your duties are heavy and your actions witnessed by the almighty and by the saints and the angels of God, and also noticeable by the thousands of pilgrims who arrive there from Muslim states and from the four corners of the world, and who, very much likely, have been manipulated by the vast and hostile propaganda of the enemies of Muslims and of Iran and by complex international media which go a long way day-in-day-out to publish and air empty lies about Islam and about the Iranian people and the committed officials in this tyrannized country, misrepresenting the rising masses of this country.

And many Muslims from other lands have taken such hostile propaganda at its face value or at best left unconvinced about the true course of events in this country.

And also witnesses to your actions are such people of our beloved nation as those who have lost their limbs or become crippled in the course of the Islamic Revolution and the war, and bereaving families and their associates who are in your company in Hajj.

Pilgrims Detained in Jeddah

LD100703 Tehran IRNA in English 0628 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] Jeddah, Aug 10, IRNA — The Saudi Security police arrested a group of 113 Iranian pilgrims upon arrival at Jeddah airport Friday morning without giving any reason.

The detained Iranian pilgrims who are from the province of Esfahan were reported to have remained under police custody as of late Saturday night.

The Saudi security officers have so far provided no explanation for the action. However, it is is said that it may be because some of the pilgrims may have had posters of Imam Khomeyni and Islamic literature. The Foreign Ministry has taken measures to secure release of the Iranian pilgrims.

Meanwhile the last group of the Iranian pilgrims arrived in Jeddah Saturday afternoon bringing the total number of the Iranian hajj pilgrims to 154,575. The Islamic Republic of Iran this year has sent the largest number of pilgrims to the holy Mecca.

The Iranian Red Crescent medical teams and facilities stationed in Jeddah have treated nearly 7,000 patients, 45 percent of whom non-Iranian pilgrims, ever since they stationed in Jeddah three weeks ago.

Iraq Rejects Proposals To Exchange POW's

LD081705 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 8 Aug 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Aug. 8, IRNA — Iraq has rejected an Iranian proposal to exchange prisoners of war, it was announced by head of committee for protection of Iranian POW's and those missing in action Mr. Aqamiri here Friday.

Aqamiri, speaking to a group of relatives of POW's and of those missing in action from Khuzestan Province, said that Iraq has also rejected Iranian proposal for arranging a re-union between Iraqi POW's and their families in a third country. Iranian POW's always console their families and call on them to continue their resistance in letters sent to them, Aqamiri said. This reflects their high morale, he noted.

Imam Khomeyni's representative and leader of Friday mass prayers here Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Jazayeri also addressed the gathering. He expressed hope that Muslim forces of Iran would gain the final victory over Iraqi forces and that all Iranian POW's would return home.

IRNA Cites Official in Charge of Iraqi POW's

LD110847 TEHRAN IRNA in English 0840 GMT 11 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11 IRNA — More than 50,000 Iraqi POW's in several POW camps in Iran attend various educational and training courses of different levels at the camps, the head of the commission in charge of the Iraqi POW affairs, Nazaran, told IRNA in an interview here Monday. More on welfare programs for the POW's, he said that all the Iraqi POW's enjoy welfare, health and athletic facilities provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran. A large number of the POW's have become literate through attending special courses, he added. In addition, the POW's are provided with courses in science, religion and foreign languages.

Issues related to the POW's, he told IRNA, are discussed in a commission and one of the major issues that the commission deals with is the POW's request for political asylum from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Once the commission approves of the POW's request, then necessary measures are taken to set them free in Iran.

On repeated request of the POW's to go to war fronts and fight against the Iraqi forces, Nazaran said that such a move is against international regulations.

When asked about resumption of activities of International Red Cross in Iran, Nazaran said that for a period of time due to certain reasons it was not allowed to inspect the POW camps.

However, now that the Red Cross has accepted conditions set forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is hoped that this time it will not repeat the mistakes of the past and will tackle the issue more rationally, he added.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,557

LD081704 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 8 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA — Iraqi military-industrial centers in Al-Sa'diyah and Miqdadiyah, a garrison in eastern Al-Mawsil and a factory and military installations of Al-Harithah were heavily bombed by Iranian jets in three separate missions at 0600, 0603 and 1450 hours local times (0230, 0233 and 1120 GMT) Friday. All planes returned safely to bases, according to a communique here Friday.

Communique number 2557 of the Joint Staff Command said that exchange of artillery fire was somewhat more intense in Zobeydah, Faqqeh, Majnun Islands, Talaiyeh and Zayd of southern fronts Thursday.

Iraqi movements were checked and fire of enemy tanks silenced by Iranian artillery fire in Nahr-Anbar and EynKhosh, casualties and losses were inflicted on the enemy, the communique said.

Artillery fire of the Muslim combatants on Iraqi positions and vehicle columns in western fronts destroyed nine group bunkers, four heavy vehicles and killed or wounded several enemy soldiers, said the communique.

In northwestern fronts, Iranian patrols prevented Iraqi troops from relocating and halted movement of enemy's supply columns. An Iraqi munitions depot was set afire and several enemy soldiers killed during the operations.

The city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province has sustained damage in sporadic shelling by the Iraqi artillery fire since Saturday, the communique said.

Iraqi Oil Installations Hit

LD090532 Tehran IRNA in English 0530 GMT 9 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug, 9, IRNA — Iranian Air Force fighter bombers hit Iraqi oil installations near Aqrah city, north of Irbil, at 0555 hours local time (0225 hours GMT) Saturday, inflicting heavy damages. The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced that the jet fighters returned to their bases safely.

2 Die in Iraqi Raid

LD091053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Aug 86

[Text] According to a report by the correspondent of the Central News Unit, a number of aircraft of the Iraqi Zionist regime at 0945 yesterday bombed the township of Armardeh, near the city of Baneh. As a result, two of our compatriots were martyred and 12 wounded. Eleven housing units were damaged.

Communique No 2,558

LD091653 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 9 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA — Iraq's oil installations near the city of 'Aqrah sustained heavy damage when they were bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 0555 hours (0225 hours GMT) Saturday, said the 2558th daily Joint Staff Communique here Saturday. The Iranian fighters after successfully carrying out the mission returned safely to their bases, the communique said.

The communique said that five Iraqi industrial centers in Basra were heavily pounded by Iranian long range artillery Friday as a result of which they incurred considerable losses. Iranian artillery fire also targetted enemy's Al-'Ummayah oil platform at 1320 hours GMT Friday.

Several Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and one truck and 10 gun emplacements and observation posts of theirs destroyed as a result of artillery duels with Iranian forces in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts Friday, the communique said.

Over the same period, the communique said, some Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Chazzabeh, southern fronts, sufferred casualties and were forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern fronts Friday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting fire to three vehicles of theirs. Iraqi engineering operations were also halted, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, some Iraqi tanks operating in Eynkhosh and Yebis sufferred damage and their fire was silenced when they came under Iranian artillery fire.

In Pich-e Angizeh, Sharhani and Bejliyeh all Iraqi operations were suppressed and elsewhere in Shalacheh and Khorramshahr enemy engineering activities halted.

An Iraqi supply column in areas overlooking Naft-e Shah sustained heavy damage when it was subjected to artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants Friday.

The Joint Staff Communique said that Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions and vehicle columns in the northwestern fronts Friday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

Communique No 2,559

LD101642 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 10 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA — Iraq's railway installations, gasoline reservoirs, and anti-aircraft gun emplacements in Khurmatu, southeast of Kirkuk, were heavily bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 13:25 hours (09:55 hours GMT) Sunday. The fighters after inflicting substantial losses on the enemy returned safely to bases.

Communique Number 2559 released by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces here Sunday added that some Iranian civilians

were martyred and a number of others wounded as a result of Iraq's August 9 bombing of Armardeh Township in Baneh, Kordestan Province.

Some Iraqi warplanes attempting to violate the airspace of Shiller and Naft Shahr Saturday were forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire, the communique said.

The military communique said that several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one munitions dump and three vehicles of theirs destroyed in parts of the southern fronts Saturday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

In the western fronts, the communique said, Iraqi troops sustained casualties and six enemy bunkers and observation posts were destroyed when their positions and supply routes were pounded by Iranian artillery on Saturday.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts Saturday raging more heavily in Hajj 'Umran, northwestern fronts, as a result of which parts of Iraqi positions were heavily damaged and enemy fire silenced. Some Iraqi bunkers and observation posts were also destroyed.

In the southern fronts, Iraqi troops incurred heavy casualties and losses Saturday when their positions, batteries, and supply routes were reconnoitered and shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants.

Iraqi Plane Downed After Raid

LD111050 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 11 aug 86

[Text] Esfahan, Aug. 11, IRNA — An Iraqi Mirage fighter bomber was downed in Esfahan Monday morning while leaving the city's airspace after an air raid on an industrial unit, Air Force officials said. The officials added that Iranian helicopters have started reconnaissance activities in the area to find the wreckage of the aircraft. There is no report yet available on the fate of the pilot of the downed Iraqi plane.

Several Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of the city of Esfahan Monday morning and bombarded an industrial unit near the city. Two civilians were martyred and 16 others wounded during the attack. Slight damage was inflicted and one case of arson, caused after the raid, was immediately brought under control.